

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8018

AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS EAIR YO US

SUBJ: SKYJACKING

1. FOLLOWING IS EDITORIAL COMMENT CARRIED ON BELGRADE
TV AT 23:30 HOURS BY NIKOLA VITOROVIC.

2. QUOTE THIS MOST RECENT ACT OF THE TERRORISTS DESERVES
THAT WE REPEAT SOME WELL-KNOWN FACTS. FIRST OF ALL IT
CANNOT BE SAID THAT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, A COUNTRY WHICH HAS ONE OF THE MOST
WELL-TRAINED POLICE FORCES IN THE WORLD, THERE CAN
REMAIN SECRET THE ACTIVITIES OF FASCIST AND TERRORIST
ORGANIZATIONS ON ITS TERRITORY. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT
HAS MANY TIMES WELL-DOCUMENTED AND POINTED OUT
ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVES, EXPLOSIONS OF
BOMBS, AMONG OTHERS THE ONE THIS SPRING BEFORE THE YUGOSLAV
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SERVES TO AFFIRM THE LEGITIMACY
OF SUCH WARNINGS. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE COURSE OF
THREE DECADES IT HAS NOT TRANSPIRED THAT EVEN ONE OF
THE PERPETRATORS OF (THESE) TERRORIST ACTS, THE
INTENTIONS OF WHOM, AMONG OTHERS TO UNDERMINE
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THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE

UNITED STATES, HAS BEEN ARRESTED OR CONVICTED.
SUCH A PERMISSIVE POLICY TOWARD THE TERRORISTS --
WHICH WERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC BEFORE THE
CONGRESS AND SENATE -- WAS CONDEMNED BY SOME PROMINENT
AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND LED TO THE PRESENT SITUATION
IN WHICH THE LIVES OF A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
ARE THREATENED BY TERRORIST ACTS AND ONE KILLED
AND SEVERAL WOUNDED FROM AN EXPLOSION IN NEW YORK.
THIS LOOKING THROUGH THE FINGERS CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE
THE TERRORISTS AND LEAD TO AN ESCALATION
OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER IT IS DIFFICULT TO
IGNORE ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THIS EVENT FOR WHICH CAN
IN NO WAY BE SAID WAS ACCIDENTAL. HIJACKING OF
THE AIRPLANE OBVIOUSLY IS INCLUDED IN THE CAMPAIGN
WHICH WAS LED AGAINST AND CONTINUES AGAINST
YUGOSLAVIA. THE GOALS OF THIS CAMPAIGN ARE TO
PRESSURE YUGOSLAVIA -- A CAMPAIGN WHICH CAME TO EXPRESSION
ON THE EVE OF COLOMBO -- ARE TO DAMAGE OUR COUNTRY
POLITICALLY, ITS GREAT INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, TO
TRY TO SWERVE YUGOSLAVIA FROM THE PATH WHICH
IT INDEPENDENTLY AND SELF-SUFFICIENTLY PURSUES.
THEREFORE, WHEN THE QUESTION IS THE
HIJACKING, ONE SHOULD NOT HAVE ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE
GREAT INDEPENDENCE OF THE HIJACKERS. THE HIJACKERS
ARE OBVIOUSLY ONLY THE EXECUTORS OF THE ARMED POLICY
BEHIND WHICH STAND THE MOST REACTIONARY AND OTHER
CIRCLES IN THE UNITED STATES. FOLK SAYING HAS IT THAT
HE WHO SOWS THE WIND, REAPS THE STORM. THAT IS
PROBABLY WHAT THE RELATIVES OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS
WHO ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE TERRORISTS ARE THINKING.
THE FATE OF INNOCENT TRAVELERS ALSO CONCERNS US,
BUT WE CAN DO NOTHING FOR THEM.
SILBERMAN

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